

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A tape cartridge, comprising:
a housing;
a reel rotatably disposed in the housing;
a reel lock operative between a first position in which the reel is locked and a second position in which the reel is unlocked;
one of the housing or the reel lock having an insert and the other of the housing or the reel lock having a receiver, the insert sized and shaped to fit closely into the receiver and the insert slidable in the receiver; and
a resilient pad pressed ~~damper operatively coupled~~ between the housing and the reel lock when the reel lock is in the second position.
2. (currently amended) The tape cartridge of Claim 1, wherein the pad ~~damper~~ is affixed to or integral with the housing.
3. (currently amended) The tape cartridge of Claim 1, wherein the pad ~~damper~~ is affixed to or integral with the reel lock.
4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) The tape cartridge of Claim 1, wherein the pad ~~damper~~ is pressed ~~operatively coupled~~ between the housing and the reel lock when the reel lock is in the first position, and the pad ~~damper~~ is pressed ~~operatively coupled~~ between the housing and the reel lock when the reel lock is in the second position.
6. (currently amended) The tape cartridge of Claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein the resilient pad comprises an elastomeric pad.
7. (currently amended) The tape cartridge of Claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein the resilient pad is affixed to or integral with the housing.

8. (currently amended) The tape cartridge of Claim 1 [[4]], wherein the resilient pad is affixed to or integral with the reel lock.

9. (currently amended) The tape cartridge of Claim 1 [[4]], wherein the resilient pad is affixed to or integral with the insert.

10. (currently amended) The tape cartridge of Claim 1 [[4]], wherein the resilient pad is affixed to or integral with the receiver.

11. (currently amended) A tape cartridge, comprising:
a housing;
a reel rotatably disposed in the housing;
a tape drive interface on the reel, the tape drive interface accessible through the housing and configured to drivingly couple the reel to a tape drive;
a rotatably fixed locking member movable between a locked position in which the locking member engages the reel to prevent rotation of the reel and an unlocked position in which the locking member does not engage the reel and the reel is free to rotate; and
a resilient pad pressed ~~damper operatively coupled~~ between the housing and the locking member when the locking member is in the unlocked position.

12. (original) The tape cartridge of Claim 11, further comprising an actuator operative to engage the locking member, the actuator including a release mechanism engagable by the tape drive at the tape drive interface, the release mechanism movable between a first position in which the release mechanism is not engaged by the tape drive and the locking member is locked and a second position in which the tape drive engages the release mechanism and the locking member is unlocked.

13. (original) The tape cartridge of Claim 12, wherein the actuator further comprises a biasing mechanism urging the locking member towards the locked position.

14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended) A tape cartridge, comprising:
a housing;
a reel rotatably disposed in the housing;
a first gear operatively coupled to the reel; ~~and~~
a second gear rotationally fixed to the housing, the second gear having a front part facing the first gear and a back part opposite the front part, the second gear movable between
a first position in which teeth on the front part of the second gear engage the first gear and the second part of the second gear is spaced apart from the housing, and
a second position in which the first part of the second gear is spaced apart from the first gear and the second part of the second gear resiliently contacts the housing; and
a resilient pad between the second part of the second gear and the housing.

16. (original) The tape cartridge of Claim 15, further comprising holes through the first gear, the holes positioned near a periphery of the first gear, and a washer operatively coupled to the first gear, the washer interposed between the first gear and the second gear and the washer having legs projecting into the holes in the first gear.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A tape cartridge, comprising:
a housing;
a reel rotatably disposed in the housing, the reel having an annular hub around a center of rotation of the reel and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub;

a first gear on the bottom of the reel, the first gear having gear teeth on a bottom side, locking projections projecting from a top side, and holes therethrough positioned at the location of gaps between first gear teeth;

a second gear rotationally fixed to the housing, the second gear having second gear teeth engagable with the projections on the first gear;

a washer interposed between the first gear and the second gear, the washer having legs projecting into the holes in the first gear and the washer bearing on the second gear at the center of rotation of the reel;

the second gear movable between a locked position in which the second gear engages the projections to prevent rotation of the reel and an unlocked position in which the second gear does not engage the projections and the reel is free to rotate;

the washer movable between a first position in which the legs of the spider washer extend down into gaps between first gear teeth and the second gear is in the locked position and a second position in which the legs of the washer do not extend down into gaps between first gear teeth and the second gear is in the unlocked position;~~and~~

a vibration damper interposed between the second gear and the housing; and wherein the housing includes a projecting insert slidable in a receiver on the second gear and the vibration damper comprises a resilient pad affixed to the housing or the second gear, the resilient pad being pressed between the receiver and the housing when the second gear is in the unlocked position.

19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended) A tape cartridge, comprising:
a housing;
a reel rotatably disposed in the housing;
a locking means bearing on the housing for preventing the reel from rotating;
a resilient pad interposed between the locking means and the housing
~~damper means~~ for damping vibration in the locking means.

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (new) A tape cartridge, comprising:

a housing;

a reel rotatably disposed in the housing;

a reel lock operative between a first position in which the reel is locked and a second position in which the reel is unlocked;

one of the housing or the reel lock having an insert and the other of the housing or the reel lock having a receiver, the insert sized and shaped to fit closely into the receiver and the insert slidable in the receiver;

a biasing mechanism urging the reel lock towards the locked position; and

a damper discrete from the biasing mechanism, the damper operatively coupled between the housing and the reel lock when the reel lock is in the second position.

24. (new) The tape cartridge of Claim 23, wherein the damper comprises a resilient pad pressed between the housing and the reel lock when the reel lock is in the second position.

25. (new) A tape cartridge, comprising:

a housing;

a reel rotatably disposed in the housing;

a tape drive interface on the reel, the tape drive interface accessible through the housing and configured to drivingly couple the reel to a tape drive;

a rotatably fixed locking member movable between a locked position in which the locking member engages the reel to prevent rotation of the reel and an unlocked position in which the locking member does not engage the reel and the reel is free to rotate;

an actuator operative to engage the locking member, the actuator including

a release mechanism engagable by the tape drive at the tape drive interface, the release mechanism movable between a first position in which the release mechanism is not engaged by the tape drive and the locking

member is locked and a second position in which the tape drive engages the release mechanism and the locking member is unlocked; and

a biasing mechanism urging the locking member towards the locked position; and

a damper discrete from the biasing mechanism, the damper operatively coupled between the housing and the locking member when the locking member is in the unlocked position.

26. (new) The tape cartridge of Claim 25, wherein the damper comprises a resilient pad pressed between the housing and the locking member when the locking member is in the unlocked position.